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ORIGIN PRM-10

INFO	LOG-00	AF-01	AID-00	CIAE-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DS-00
	OIGO-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-10	ADS-00	NSAE-00	OIC-02
	OIG-04	SCT-00	SR-00	FMP-00	DSCC-00	DRL-09	/037R

DRAFTED BY: PRM/AAA: MMLANGE  
APPROVED BY: PRM/AAA: MJMCKELVEY  
AF/C: KCAISTON  
AF/RCS: SMCILVAINE  
AF/C: TMCCULLEY  
IO/ESA: KJMCQUIRE

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O P 142333Z APR 95  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY  
INFO RWANDA COLLECTIVE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 092725

GENEVA FOR RMA

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREF RW CG  
SUBJECT: ARMED ATTACK ON RWANDAN REFUGEE CAMP  
REF: (A) 95 GENEVA 3027, (B) 95 STATE 91142, (C) 95 KINSHASA 2193,  
(D) 95 KINSHASA 2215

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1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.

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2. REF A REPORTS OF ATTACK ON BIRAVA REFUGEE CAMP BY ARMED ELEMENTS (PRESUMED TO BE THE RPA) CHASING OTHER ARMED ELEMENTS (PRESUMED TO BE THE EX-FAR OR HUTU MILITIA) WHO SOUGHT REFUGE IN BIRAVA. TWENTY-EIGHT REFUGEES WERE KILLED, AND 54 WOUNDED; THREE OF THE WOUNDED HAVE SINCE DIED. UNHCR IS TRYING TO PIECE TOGETHER THE DETAILS OF THE ATTACK. REGARDLESS OF WHO IS RESPONSIBLE, THIS INCIDENT CALLS FOR A STRONG PUBLIC REACTION AND A PLEA - HOWEVER HORTATORY - FOR BETTER PROTECTION OF REFUGEES CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL CONCLUSIONS ON THE ISSUE OF ARMED ATTACKS ON REFUGEE CAMPS.

3. FOR KIGALI. DEPT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE GOR IS DENYING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS ATTACK. WHETHER THE GOR'S CLAIM IS TRUE OR NOT, WE FEEL THAT THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO URGE THE GOR NOT TO ENGAGE IN ARMED ATTACKS AGAINST REFUGEE CAMPS. EMBASSY KIGALI IS REQUESTED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO APPROPRIATE GOR OFFICIALS:

-- THE USG RECOGNIZES THAT REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAIRE DO NOT YET CONFORM TO INTERNATIONAL PRINCIPLES REGARDING THEIR LOCATION AND EXCLUSIVELY CIVILIAN CHARACTER, AND THUS MAY POSE A SECURITY THREAT TO RWANDA.

-- WHILE REFUGEE CAMPS ARE INTENDED TO BE ENTIRELY CIVILIAN IN NATURE, WE KNOW THAT MANY ARMED ELEMENTS (WHO BY TAKING UP ARMS FORFEIT THEIR REFUGEE STATUS) ARE  
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INDEED USING REFUGEE CAMPS AS BASES OF OPERATIONS FOR  
ACTIONS AGAINST RWANDA.

-- WE ARE WORKING TO SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE UNHCR AND THE GOVERNMENT OF ZAIRE TO TRY TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF REFUGEE CAMPS IN ZAIRE AND TO ISOLATE ARMED ELEMENTS FROM THE REFUGEE POPULATION. THIS WILL, HOWEVER, TAKE TIME.

-- WE URGE THE GOR TO AVOID THE TEMPTATION OF ATTACKING REFUGEE CAMPS. THESE CAMPS SHELTER MANY

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INNOCENT REFUGEES IN ADDITION TO THE NEW WAC SERVED.  
THOSE WHO ARE INNOCENT MUST BE PROTECTED EVEN IN SUCH  
SITUATIONS WHERE ARMED ELEMENTS WHO MAY HAVE COME FROM  
CAMPS HAVE ATTACKED FIRST.

4. FOR KINSHASA. THE BIRAVA ATTACK CAN ALSO BE USED AS  
A SPRINGBOARD TO REMIND THE GOZ OF ITS OBLIGATION AS A  
REFUGEE HOSTING COUNTRY TO TAKE ALL POSSIBLE STEPS TO  
PROTECT THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT ASYLUM WITHIN ITS BORDERS  
AND TO PREVENT REFUGEES FROM TAKING ANY HOSTILE ACTION  
AGAINST THEIR HOME COUNTRY. FURTHER TO CAUTIONS  
EXPRESSED IN REF B (DEMARCHÉ REPORTED REF D), EMBASSY IS  
REQUESTED TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS TO APPROPRIATE GOZ  
AUTHORITIES:

-- THE USG APPRECIATES THE HOSPITALITY OF THE GOZ IN  
OFFERING ASYLUM TO OVER 1 MILLION RWANDAN AND BURUNDI  
REFUGEES.

-- WE RECOGNIZE THAT ALONG WITH THE OFFER OF ASYLUM,  
THE GOZ HAS ALSO COMMITTED ITSELF UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW  
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TO PROTECT REFUGEES.

-- THE GOZ, WORKING WITH UNHCR, HAS MADE PROGRESS IN  
ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE SECURITY OF REFUGEES IN THE GOMA  
AND BUKAVU REGIONS.

-- THE USG URGES THE GOZ TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS OF  
REMOVING ARMED ELEMENTS FROM REFUGEE CAMPS, WORKING  
TOWARDS A COMPLETE CIVILIANIZATION OF ALL CAMPS IN ZAIRE.

5. FOR GENEVA. DEPT WOULD APPRECIATE AN UPDATE FROM  
UNHCR ON (A) FURTHER DETAILS OF THE BIRAVA ATTACK, AND  
(B) THE STATUS OF DEPLOYMENT OF ZAIRIAN PROTECTIVE FORCES  
IN REFUGEE CAMPS. IN LIGHT OF THE BIRAVA ATTACK, HAS THE  
ROLE OR MANDATE OF THE PROTECTIVE FORCES CHANGED?  
TALBOTT

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